



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor



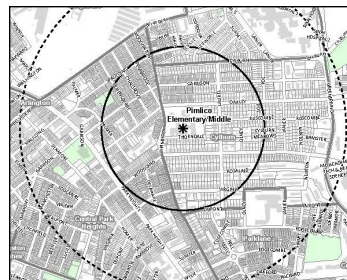
Chris Ryer
Director of Planning

Investing in Neighborhoods and Schools to Promote Improvement, Revitalization, and Excellence

The 21st Century School Buildings Initiative is investing nearly one billion dollars to modernize schools in Baltimore. To leverage this investment the Planning Department launched the **INSPIRE** program (Investing in Neighborhoods and Schools to Promote Improvement, Revitalization, and Excellence).



21st Century:
Develops School Site



INSPIRE:
Focuses Around the School



Community Schools:
Brings in Partners & Resources

Stronger schools lead to stronger neighborhoods; stronger neighborhoods lead to stronger schools.

INSPIRE focuses on the quarter-mile area surrounding each “21st Century school” to build from and leverage the school investment. Plans include recommendations for improvements that affect residents’ quality of life.

- Immediate City investments make streetscape improvements (better sidewalks, crosswalks, street trees, etc.) on “primary walking routes” to help ensure that there is safer pedestrian access to the school.
- Plan recommendations are organized into goals related to the housing market and development; safety; sanitation; sustainability; health, wellness, and recreation; transportation; and self sufficiency.

Implemented recommendations include:



**Turned a vacant lot into a
community/school garden**
Fort Worthington E/MS, Other



**Rehabbed properties across
the street from the school**
Pimlico E/MS



**Implemented a new community
park master plan**
Dorothy I. Height ES

Planning Process

The Department of Planning works with community members to guide the INSPIRE process.



Community Engagement

- INSPIRE Workshops
- Community Meetings & Events
- Steering Committee Meetings
- School Events
- Student Workshops & Projects
- Fieldwork/Community Walks
- Subject-area Workshops
- Project Voting
- Project Charrettes

Although much of the plan will be implemented after adoption, there is investment and activity throughout the process.

Implementation

Plan implementation requires everybody's help — public sector, private sector, and individuals. City agencies have committed to start making improvements by allocating staffing resources and capital dollars.

For more information:

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